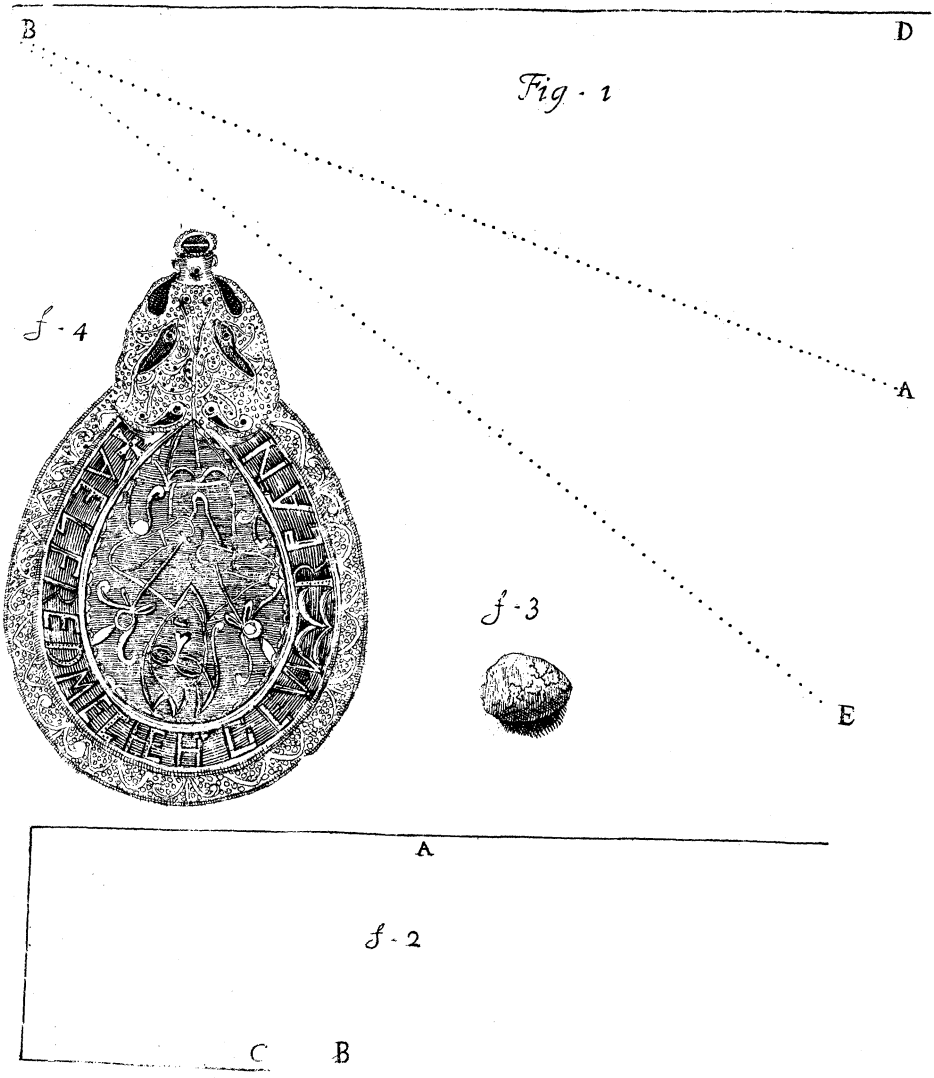

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V. *Part of a Letter from Dr.* Muſgrave, *Fellow of the College of Phyſicians and R. S. to Dr.* Sloane; *concerning a Piece of Antiquity lately found in* Somerſetſhire.

I Encloſe, to you, the Figure (*ſee Fig.* 4.) of a curious piece of Antiquity, lately found near *Aſhelney* in *Somerſetſhire*; the Place where King *Alfred* built, as *Milton* affirms, a *Fortreſs*: But according to *William* of *Malmsbury*, a *Monaſtery*; in Memory (as ſome have thought) of his Deliverance, obſcure Retreat to that Place, and Concealment in it, from the *Danes*.

The Subſtance is in the Poſſeſſion of Col. *P.* of *Fairfeild* in the ſame County; by whoſe, Permiſſion, I had the Sight of it. 'Tis of the ſame Length and Breadth with the Figure: the Work very fine; ſo as to make ſome Men queſtion its true Age: But in all probability, it did belong to that great King, it is ſo well repreſented in the Figure, that a ſhort Deſcription will ſuffice.

The Edge is thin, as far as the Letters. The Letters are on a Plane riſing obliquely. All within the inner Pyramidal Line is on a Plane equi-diſtant from the Reverſe. The Repreſentation (in that upper Plane) ſeems to be of ſome Perſon in a Chair. It is in Enamel, cover'd over with a Cryſtal; which is ſecured in its place by the little Leaves coming over its Edges. In the Reverſe are Flowers engraved. The whole piece may be of the Weight of Three Guineas. The Chryſtal and Enamel excepted, it is all of pure Gold.

This, perhaps, was an Amulet of King *Alfred*'s.

Exon, Dec. 10. 1698.